



Using the LAME Encoder with Audacity

The Audacity software can record, save, and export sound files in a number of popular formats. It can, for example, produce WAV sound files, which generally offer high quality sound but are large in file size.

When a sound is to be downloaded or streamed via the Internet, a smaller file size is often more desirable. The mp3 file format offers a compression scheme that keeps file size down while still producing fair sound quality.

By itself, Audacity *cannot* export mp3 sound files. However, with the help of a separate piece of software, the LAME Encoder, Audacity *can* produce the relatively small files that mp3 compression offers.

In order for it to use the LAME Encoder, Audacity needs to know where the encoder file is located. Once you have Audacity installed and the Lame Encoder downloaded, you may follow the steps below.

- Place the lameenc.dll file in a folder on your hard drive. For example, you may place the LAME file in the Audacity folder, which is probably in the Program Files folder on your C drive.
- Open Audacity and under the Edit menu choose Preferences.
- Select the File Formats tab.
- At the bottom of the window, in the section labeled MP3 Export Setup, click on the link labeled Find Library.
- When asked if you want to locate the Lame Encoder, click Yes.
- In the dialogue box, navigate to the folder where you put the lame-enc.dll file earlier, and select the file.
- Click OK.

From Audacity, you should now be able to export files in the mp3 format.

